

Military Family Relief Fund
4141 North 3rd Street - Phoenix, AZ 85012
November 29, 2007 – 9:30 a.m.
Arizona State Veteran Home - Conference Room A-107

Committee Members

Joe Bibich	Carol Culbertson
George Cushing	Charles McCarty
Jay Gordon	Randy Meyer
Kathy Pearce	Gregg Maxon
Marcos Andrade	John Aldecoa
Jody Reidenhour	Joan Sisco
Margy Bons	

Arizona Department of Veterans' Services

Gregg Maxon, Director	Dave Hampton - Public Information Officer
Danny Thompson - Chaplain	
Gabe Forsberg – Plans & Development	Stella Cook - Executive Assistant

Other Attendees

Jeff Dollins, Assistant Attorney General

CALL TO ORDER

Director Maxon called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

WELCOME

Director Maxon welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for volunteering to serve on the committee. Members introduced themselves and gave a brief history of their background.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

This was the first meeting. There are no previous minutes to review and/or approve.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Military Family Relief Fund; Advisory Committee statute (ARS 41-608.04): Director Maxon explained the history and establishment of the Military Family Relief Fund (MFRF). There are some issues with the way the statute is currently worded and our department was currently working with Senator Arzberger's office to make certain amendments to the statute. He explained if there was not an emergency

clause included, the changes to the bill would not go into effect until 90 days after the legislature goes out of session.

State tax credit criteria: Director Maxon explained that the Veteran's Donation Fund has already been established and a separate sub-account will be used for depositing all MFRF donations. After the fund reaches its one million dollar donation balance, Arizona taxpayers will not be eligible for the tax credit. They will, however, be eligible for a standard charitable donation claim on taxes, as they are going into the Veteran's Donation Fund.

Open Meeting Law: Mr. Jeff Dollins discussed statutory changes and the Open Meeting Law (frequently referred to as OML). He explained the rules governing Executive Sessions and stressed the importance of exiting an executive session and returning to regular session to make any decisions, vote, and/or take any action. He also discussed OML and privacy information (such as financial and medical information that an applicant would likely be required to submit). The committee discussed ethics training and Mr. Dollins clarified several issues.

Focus for Future Meetings: Director Maxon explained that the committee would need to elect a chairperson at the next meeting. The committee will need to decide on the topics below and the Director asked members for feedback:

- Application process
- Information applicants must provide
- Who are eligible applicants (i.e. spouse, child, grandparent, etc.)
- Criteria for review and approval
- A minimum number for committee members to meet to review emergency applications
- Committee operating procedures
- Decide if MFRF dollars will be grants or loans

Director Maxon introduced Mr. Dave Hampton and explained that Mr Hampton would be producing press releases, etc, to advertise the MFRF and the tax credit.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be scheduled sometime towards the end of the month of January 2008 and will be announced.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m.